

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of the Draft Conservation Agreement for the Coral Pink Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle for Review and Comment**

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Document Availability, Public Comment Period, and Public Hearing.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of a Draft Conservation Agreement for the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle (*Cicindela limbata albissima*). This species is a candidate for listing as endangered or threatened under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The Draft Conservation Agreement was developed jointly by the Utah Department of Natural Resources's Division of Parks and Recreation; the U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Kane County Commission, Utah; and the Service as a collaborative and cooperative effort. The agreement focuses on identifying, reducing and eliminating significant threats to the tiger beetle that warrant its candidate status, and on enhancing and maintaining the species population to ensure its long term conservation. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft agreement.

DATES: Public hearings will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 1996, in Kanab, Utah; from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 1996, in St. George, Utah; and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 1996 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Comments on the Draft Conservation Agreement must be received on or before January 24, 1997 to be considered by the Service during preparation of the final Conservation Agreement and prior to the Service's determination of whether or not it will be a signatory party to the agreement.

ADDRESSES: The public hearings will be held at the Holiday Inn, 800 East Highway 89, Kanab, Utah; at the Hilton Inn, 1450 South Hilton Drive, St. George, Utah; and at the Natural Resources Auditorium, Room 1060 "C", Division of Natural Resources Building, 1594 West North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. Persons wishing to review the Draft Conservation Agreement may obtain a copy by contacting the Assistant Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 145 East 1300 South, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Written

comments and materials regarding the Draft Conservation Agreement also should be directed to the same address. Comments and materials received will be available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert D. Williams, Assistant Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 801/524-5001).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle (*Cicindela limbata albissima*) is a terrestrial, predaceous insect in the family Cicindelidae. The beetle is known to occur only at the Coral Pink Sand Dunes. The Coral Pink Sand Dunes comprise a dune field about eight miles long and a little less than one mile wide. These dunes are located in Kane County about seven miles west of Kanab, Utah. The southern portion of the Dunes is within the State of Utah's Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, managed by Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. The northern portion of the Dunes is located on public land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Kanab Resource Area. The Bureau's portion of the dunes is within the Moquith Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

The Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle is currently a candidate species for listing under the provisions of the Act, in the Service's most recent Notice of Review (61 FR 7596). On April 19, 1994, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance petitioned the Service to list the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle and designate critical habitat. On September 8, 1994, the Director of the Service approved the 90-day petition finding as providing substantive information that the species' listing may be warranted (59 FR 47293).

The Service has assessed existing and potential threats facing the species based on the five criteria as required by Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA. Within each of these criteria, several factors which have contributed to the degradation of Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle habitat and its populations were identified (59 FR 47293).

The Agreement focuses on following goals: (1) Permanently protect the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle habitat in two designated conservation areas within the historical range of the species. (2) Establish a continuing management program which educates and enforces Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle conservation measures

within the Dunes. (3) Monitor the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle population to demonstrate that conservation measures taken in behalf of the species are maintaining it at viable population levels. (4) Gain additional biological and ecological information concerning the beetle and its dune habitat. (5) Form a conservation advisory committee to coordinate all conservation actions and to act as a information gathering, dissemination center. (6) Provide for both motorized and nonmotorized recreation within the Dunes consistent with the conservation of the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service will use information received during the public comment period and at the above mentioned public hearings in its determination as to whether it should be a signatory party to the agreements. Comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the draft documents are hereby solicited. All comments and materials received will be considered prior to the approval of any final document.

Author

The primary author of this notice is John L. England (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 801/524-5001).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: November 19, 1996.

Mary L. Gessner,

Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on a Permit Application to Incidentally Take Threatened and Endangered Species in Association with a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the Potrero Creek and Beaumont Gateway Sites in the City of Beaumont, County of Riverside, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has under consideration for approval a draft Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and an application for incidental take submitted by the Lockheed Martin